Miscellanea.

PLAN FOR PROMOTING SANATORY REFORM.—The commission of sanatorial inquiry which has been issued, consisting of Mr. Edwin Chadwick, Lord Robert Grosvenor, Mr. Lambert Jones, Professor Owen, and Dr. Southwood Smith, will have much to do and will need assistance from without. With a view to affording this, the *Daily News* refers to Franklin's club of twelve in Philadelphia, and suggests a similar institution here and now. "It was never allowed to exceed that number, but each of its members was encouraged to form a club of twelve in his more immediate vicinity. The members of these, when their numbers were filled up, again formed other clubs of twelve. When any useful institution, any reform in the city institutions, occurred to a member of any of these clubs, he proposed it for discussion. By means of the members common to other clubs, it was discussed by all of them in rotation, and the result of the deliberations of each was communicated to the others. In a wonderful short time the public opinion of Philadelphia was thus ascertained or prepared for any reform simply by the enlightening it and the maturing the plan by repeated discussions. Might not similar clubs for discussing sanatory reform in a quiet friendly way be instituted throughout the metropolis? Men who shrink from publicity, and have a distaste for the exaggerations of agitating orators could make themselves useful in this way in preparing the minds of their personal friends; and the general body of sanatory reformers would thus be enabled, without tying themselves to any leader, or withdrawing themselves from their industrial pursuits and calm domestic pleasures to be ready to answer "yes" *en masse* when the authors of a metropolitan sanatory police bill worthy of their acceptance ask them whether they insist upon its being carried." Our article of last week served to usher in the new commission. Mr. Henry Austin, the honorary secretary of the Health of Towns' Association, has, very properly, been appointed secretary to the commission.

PAINTED TABLETS AND NOS.—A correspondent, Mr. "Henry Williams, citizen and letter-painter, London, 1846," has sent us a "copious and diffusive" MS. treatise on "Letter Painting," which, as he defines it, "is a grand improvement in one of the departments of British Art, invented by a writer and decorative painter in the commencement of the year 1846. Its participant is the application of silica oil colours, from the very first process of the groundwork, or foundation, to the entire and final completion of the inscription thus depicted, which in appearance is on an equilibrium with enamel painting." If we understand all its definitions, axioms, corollaries, inferences, and conclusions, what this "writer and decorative painter" claims as his own invention is the application of the silica colours to the letter painting, but his meaning and object are so hidden under thick coats of 'much learning,' clearly not of silicate transparency, that even with the aid of his "vocabulary," or "concise nomenclature for the technicalities previously used," we can scarcely make it out. "The several departments in this new walk of art are imitation zinc-plate grounds with black letters, and white grounds with black letters, white grounds with coloured letters, and tinted grounds with letters of various hues." A specimen sent us, with a contrast in the ordinary manner, but of a darker ground tint, certainly exhibits the figures clearly and distinctly enough, but whether "it possesses a permanent character such as will tend eventually to benefit the shareholders of railway companies at large, if adopted for those species of inscriptions, viz., names, numbers, initals, &c., not of a temporary class," remains to be seen. The inventor's own opinion of these "inscription tablets" is, that "owing their origin to a grand discovery in British Art," they "are completed with extraordinary tact as to give great energy to this present enterprising and inventive crisis."

CAUTION TO BUILDERS.—The contractor or builder of the Peebles hustings is to be criminally tried for his imperfect carpentry. In the calendar of the ensuing Jedburgh assize appears the name "Alexander Dickson, for culpable neglect of duty in constructing election hustings."

PROJECTED WORKS, &c.—Tenders have been called for by advertisement for the whole or part of the works required in the erection of a church near Kidderminster; for the building of a national school, with residence for master attached, at Maryport; the erection of a temporary wooden station at Leeds for the Leeds, Dewsbury, and Manchester Railway; the various works required to be done in the erection of the station buildings at Dewsbury on same line; the execution of various works at Broughty Ferry, near Dundee, on the Edinburgh and Northern Railway, consisting of wharf walls, piers, and low water landings, with excavations; a supply of flints, whinstone, Bombay and Guernsey granite, Rockhill paving-stone, and Aberdeen granite edge curb, &c., for the parish of St. George Martyr, Southwark; also, for excavating at a mill-dam at Portsea; for gasometers, pipes, syphons, branches, lamp-irons and posts, glass lamps, &c. &c. for the Newbury Improvement Commissioners, and for lighting with gas; also for gas-fitters' work, and smith and iron-founders' work at Leeds Industrial Training Schools.

BEGGING ARCHITECTS.—The current number of the *Moniteur des Architectes* gives a copy of an amusing letter addressed by an architect to various of the *porters* in Paris, suggesting that they should exert themselves to induce their employers to engage him as their architect, and promising them a good share of the fees. The letter ends nobly with "write me a line by the post, and I will come to you immediately." The editor, after commenting on such conduct with proper severity, says,—"When will it be permitted us to drive the money-changers from the temple?"

THE FALL OF HOUSES AT SOHO.—It appears that the two fallen houses in Dudley-court, Crown-street, which formed a portion of the range of condemned buildings in course of demolition, had been already in the hands of the destroyers, who had been engaged in withdrawing the interior wood-work, so that some trouble only was saved, and nothing lost, by their downfal, which happily took place without accident to human life.

THE GLASS TRADE.—A recent influx of new patterns, particularly in the cut-glass trade, has led at Stourbridge to a misunderstanding between the operatives and their employers as to prices. The men, however, are said to display an anxious desire to settle the matter in a friendly spirit, which we should think is likely eventually to satisfy all their reasonable expectations.

TOWER HAMLETS COMMISSION OF SEWERS.—At a meeting of the Commissioners, held on Wednesday last, it was resolved to apply to the Lord Chancellor for a new commission for the Tower Hamlets, the present commission expiring in December.

REMINGTON'S AERIAL BRIDGE.—Under this title a curiously slight timber bridge is being exhibited at the Surrey Zoological Gardens, and deserves a visit.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"*Cardiff Town Hall Competition.*"—A correspondent on this subject, p. 418 ante, said that a plan "was sent in openly" from the town surveyor of Cardiff "designed for quite another site." The surveyor in question wishes us to state, that his plan was not sent in competition, but as a distinct proposition.

"*C. J.*"—The quotation from Spenser's "Faerie Queene" relative to architectural proportions, will be found in Book II., Canto 9, Stanza 22.

"*W. P.*" Islington.—The story in question, above the entablature, is called an attic.

"*J. P. B.*"—Our correspondent's remedy is against the contractors, who are bound to see him reimbursed.

Plain Hints.—An opinion on imperfect information would only mislead: take the advice of a local architect.

Received.—"J. M." "W. N." "J. G." "J. K." "Mathematician."

Books Received.—Plans and Elevations of Cottage Villas and Country Residences." By W. Pattinson, Architect. (Williams and Co., 16, Strand.) "An Introduction to the Present Practice of Surveying and Levelling." By a Civil Engineer. (Williams and Co.) "The Assistant Engineer's Railway Guide in Boring, Setting out Slopes, &c." By W. Davis Haskoll. (Williams and Co.) "Elements of Geometry; with a new Demonstration that the Sum of the Angles of a Plane Triangle is equal to Two Right Angles." By J. D. (Longman and Co.) 1847.

"*Books, Prices, and Addresses.*"—We have not time to point out books or find addresses.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

ARCHITECTURAL SUBJECTS (Outlines coloured for competition or exhibition, and embellished with landscape, &c. Buildings, Portraits, and Views of every description, lithographed in a superior manner, by GEORGE CHILDS, 12, Amwell-street, Pentonville.

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MR. THOMAS S. BOYS, Member of the New Society of Painters in Water Colours, and author of "The Picturesque Architecture of Paris, Ghent, Rouen, &c." and of "London as it is," offers his services in Tinting Backgrounds, Landscapes, Perspective Views, Interiors, &c. From the long experience he has had in such subjects, he is fully aware of the points essentially necessary to be attended to. Drawings and designs lithographed in a superior manner.—Address, Mr. BOYS, 8, Great Portland-street, Oxford-street.

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